



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q65851

Keiichi MINAKUCHI

Appln. No.: 09/929,067

Group Art Unit: 2812

Confirmation No.: 8917

Examiner: Walter Lee Lindsay, Jr.

Filed: August 15, 2001

For: LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated February 26, 2003. A two-month Petition for Extension of Time is being submitted herewith, making a response due July 26, 2003.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,657,140 ("Xu").

In response, Applicants have reviewed Xu and respectfully traverse.

Xu is directed to a white twisted nematic liquid crystal display comprising:

a liquid crystal layer for twisting at least one normally incident visible wavelength of light from about 80° to 100° as it passes therethrough when said liquid crystal layer is in substantially the off-state thereby defining a twisted nematic display;

a pair of negative retarders sandwiching said liquid crystal layer therebetween;

a pair of positive retarders sandwiching both said liquid crystal layer and said negative retarders therebetween; and

wherein the retardation value of each of said negative retarders is from about -60 to -200 nm and the retardation value of each of said positive retarders is from about 80 to 200 nm.

(see claim 1 of Xu).

According to the above, Xu discloses a liquid crystal display having the layers of a liquid crystal layer, a pair of negative retarders, and a pair of positive retarders, and these layers are placed as:

A positive retarder/
a negative retarder/
a liquid crystal layer/
a negative retarder/
a positive retarder.

On the other hand, the present invention is directed to a liquid crystal display device comprising:

a laminated protection panel composed of a $\lambda/4$ -plate, a polarizing plate and a transparent protection plate;
a liquid crystal display; and
a phase retarder

wherein the laminated protection panel is disposed to a top surface of the liquid crystal display with a distance, the phase retarder is disposed between the laminated protection panel and the liquid crystal display, and the sum($\alpha_A + \alpha_B$) of a wavelength dispersion (α_A) of the $\lambda/4$ -plate and a wavelength dispersion(α_B) of the phase

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retarder is in the range of 1.11 to 1.95. (see Claim 1 of the present specification).

Therefore, the layers of the present invention are placed as:

A laminated protection panel (composed of $\lambda/4$ -plate, a polarizing
plate and a transparent protection plate)/
a phase retarder/
a liquid crystal display.

The liquid crystal display is composed of, for example, a liquid crystal display cell, an upper polarizing plate and a lower polarizing plate as described in the present specification.

Comparing the claimed layers to Xu, it is clear that Xu does not disclose Applicants' claimed layers. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

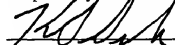
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,


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